Applicant: Giuseppe Dal Pra' Application No.: 10/041,569

## **ABSTRACT**

A combined gear change and brake control unit in a support body which can be fastened to a bicycle handlebar. The brake control lever and gear change control unit are carried by the support body. The gear change unit has a rotatable shaft attached to a pulley with an end portion of a derailleur control cable wound thereon. The shaft is subject to a return torque that turns the shaft to release the cable. The unit has a gear change lever that controls the rotation of the shaft in a direction that winds the cable onto the pulley and a cable release button. The gear change control unit includes a ratchet mechanism that leaves the shaft free to turn by a predetermined amount in the release direction of the cable.